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Attorneys for Plaintiffs



## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MARY M. FRANCIS, individually and the ESTATE OF JOHN C. FRANCIS, acting through its personal representative. MARY M. FRANCIS

Plaintiffs.

VS.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Defendant.

'08 CV 0141BIM POR

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR WRONGFUL DEATH

COME NOW the Plaintiffs above named, by and through their undersigned counsel, and for their cause of action against the Defendant, state and allege as follows:

1. Plaintiff, Mary M. Francis, is the sole surviving heir of John C. Francis, deceased, and the personal representative of The Estate of John C. Francis.

COMPLAINT - 1 Complaint.wpd/wc

Filed 01/24/2008

- 2. The defendant herein, acted through its agency, the Federal Aviation Administration.
- 3. The plaintiffs filed a tort claim against the United States through the office of the Federal Aviation Administration's General Counsel on or about May 18. 2007. A copy of the tort claim is attached to this complaint.
- 4. The aforesaid tort claim has not been denied by the United States but more than six months has passed since its filing. It was timely filed pursuant to 28 USC § 2401(b).
- 5. The court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1346(b).
- 6. Venue lies in this court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1402(b).
- 7. At all times relevant hereto, defendant, acting through its agency the Federal Aviation Administration (hereinafter "FAA"), leased from the County of San Diego located within the State of California, certain premises on the McClellan-Palomar Airport (hereinafter "Airport") for the purpose of installing and operating an ILS localizer antenna structure for use as a navigational aid and facility for aircraft conducting approaches to and operating at the Airport.
- 8. Upon information and belief, the FAA, through its agents, servants, and employees acting within the course and scope of their employment with the FAA, designed, planned, installed, constructed, operated, serviced, and maintained the localizer antenna structure at the McClellan-Palomar Airport.
- 9. On January 24, 2006 at approximately 0640 Pacific Standard Time, the pilots of a Cessna Citation model 560 aircraft, with federal registration number N86CE (hereinafter the "Citation"), made an approach and attempted a

landing at the McClellan-Palomar Airport in Carlsbad, California and then commenced a normal and foreseeable go-around procedure.

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- 10. It was foreseeable that many aircraft making approaches for landing at the Airport will need to execute a mandatory or elective go-around procedure from an approach or an attempted landing.
- 11. During the attempted go-around procedure, the Citation became airborne and was fully capable of continued safe flight, but the Citation impacted the localizer antenna structure which intruded upwards into the airspace at the departure end of the runway. This impact with the localizer antenna structure caused immediate and substantial damage to the Citation rendering it incapable of flight. The Citation then impacted the ground, slid and hit a building causing the deaths of four persons aboard the aircraft at the time of the accident, plaintiff's decedent among them.
- 12. Defendant and its agents, servants, and employees, were negligent, failed to use due care and created a hazardous and dangerous condition of which defendant had actual or constructive notice, including but not limited to the following:
  - The ILS localizer antenna structure was negligently designed, a. planned, installed, constructed, operated, serviced, and maintained.
  - b. The design, installation, and construction of the localizer antenna structure failed to comply with federal airport design standards and regulations and/or generally accepted airport industry design, installation, and construction standards.

the obstacle free zone.

- c. The localizer antenna structure failed to meet or comply with FAA design standards, relevant Federal Aviation Regulations ("FARs"), and/or generally accepted industry standards in that it was located in
  - located within the runway safety area and the obstacle free area and

an area required to be free from obstacles and hazards, and/or was

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d. The localizer antenna structure failed to meet FAA design standards,

FARs and/or generally accepted industry standards in that it was

properly marked and identified as an obstacle and hazard.

- constructed of materials which were not frangible, and/or was not
- e. The defendant negligently failed to inspect the Airport and to warn reasonably foreseeable operators of aircraft at the Airport, including the plaintiff's decedent, of unsafe and hazardous conditions at the Airport caused by the negligent design, installation, construction, operation, servicing, maintenance, and/or location of the localizer antenna structure.
- 13. The defendant's negligence was a proximate cause of the accident and the deaths of the four persons aboard the aircraft at the time of the accident, including John C. Francis, father of Mary M. Francis.
- 14. If the defendant were a private person, it would be liable to the plaintiffs in accordance with the laws of the State of California, or the laws of some other jurisdiction which may be applicable to this claim.

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- 15. The negligence of the defendant caused the plaintiffs' damages.
- 16. Plaintiff, Mary M. Francis, has been deprived of her father's love, support, affection, training, guidance, society, companionship, protection, services, care, counsel and, accordingly, has suffered a loss of enjoyment of life, grief and a loss of income. The Estate of John C. Francis has suffered a loss of personal property. These damages exceed the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.
- 17. Donald W. Lojek has been admitted to practice before this Court *pro hac vice* in Case No. 07cv408-DMS-POR arising out of the same incident which is the subject of this action. A motion presently pends before this Court to consolidate several actions arising out of this same incident. Therefore, consolidation of this action with those other actions to wit:

Short Title of Case	Case No.	Date Filed		
Jellinek v. Jaxair	06-cv-02711-DMS-POR	December 14, 2006		
Garratt v. San Diego	07-cv-00139-DMS-POR	January 23, 2007		
Goship Air v. San Diego	07-cv-00403-DMS-POR	March 5, 2007		
Francis v. San Diego	07-cv-00408-DMS-POR	March 5, 2007		

is requested for all for the purposes of discovery and other matters as the Court may dictate.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray that the court enter judgment against defendant as hereinafter set forth:

- 1. For plaintiffs' special and general damages as may be proved at trial but not less than one million dollars.
- 2. For pre-judgment interest as provided by law;

- 3. For costs of suit incurred herein, including attorney fees and expert witness fees;
- 4. For all other damages available under applicable law; and
- 5. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

DATED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2008.

LOJEK LAW OFFICES, CHTD.

By:

Donald W. Lojek - Of the Firm

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

**ORRIN L. GROVER, PC** 

Orrin L. Grover - Of the Firm

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO DIVISION

# 146817 - BH

January 24, 2008 12:24:00

## Civ Fil Non-Pris

USAO #.: 08CV0141 CIVIL FILING

Judge..: BARRY T MOSKOWITZ

Amount.:

\$350.00 CK

Check#.: BC# 7920

Total-> \$350.00

FROM: FRANCIS V. USA CIVIL FILING

SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07)

## **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

the civil docket sheet. (SEE IN	NSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVE	RSE OF THE FORM.)	- 11				
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☐ 190 Other Contract	Product Liability	☐ 385 Property Damage	☐ 720 Labor/M		☐ 863 DIWC	DIWW (405(g))	875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability☐ 196 Franchise	360 Other Personal Injury	Product Liability	☐ 730 Labor/M & Disclo		☐ 864 SSID T ☐ 865 RSI (40		890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts
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